

THE CHAMPION

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No. 9

EVERGLADES.

TOPHER MALING ON THEIR DRAINAGE.

Stophier Maling, a civil engineer of note, who now lives at Arcadia, was recently called to make affidavit before the Circuit Court as to his opinion why draining the Everglades was an impracticable proposition. Having had experience in other countries, as well as being a member of a party that a few years ago was sent to investigate the Everglades makes his testimony especially valuable.

Maling states that any great drainage scheme is either entered for the purpose of making a navigable canal or for reclaiming for agricultural purposes.

The first case to maintain sufficient depth of water at uniform level for navigation in such canal, must be reservoirs controlled by locks to supply more water in case of a dry season.

The Everglades Mr. Maling says composed of 5000 miles of very exclusive of Lake Okechobee which has 1200 square miles and Big Cypress swamp with 1000 square miles, or in all an area of 6000 square miles. Of this 6000 square miles are hillocks and high places leaving as swampy water covered territory about 4000 square miles.

Lake Okechobee is the reservoir together with its tributaries, covering this swampy territory. This lake has an annual rainfall of 48 inches. The lake is 20 feet above sea level, and its greatest depth about 12 feet. The drainage does not amount to more than 2 feet at any season as surrounding swamp lands contain about 25 per cent of water of all its volume.

Lower Lake Okechobee four miles contemplated would therefore take a canal 150 feet wide to carry a four foot flow for a distance of fifty miles. This would require a current of 25 miles per hour and would take 170 days to reach the level desired. Considering also the fact that the drainage of the Kissimmee valley into its numerous lakes and rivers must be looked after in addition it will be seen that not one drainage great canal must be constructed. Lateral drains would also be necessary on either side of the main canals, at not greater distance than two miles apart, and the level nature of the land would require greater length than 4 miles between 20 foot canals useless. Estimate of 250 miles of drainages is a small one and would include a large number of hand drains.

LAND WHEN RECLAIMED.

Land to be reclaimed is contained in three classes. Sand and humus, valuable for agricultural purposes, secondly, consisting of decomposed peaty matter of a peaty nature, and thirdly, the vast sawgrass lands, which when drained and are very fertile. In the latter two if fire should be put in the dried sawgrass or peat would be almost impossible to stop as the peat would until water is reached.

It is to successfully utilize these lands if reclaimed, both drainage

and irrigation will be necessary. If Lake Okechobee is lowered four feet irrigation by gravitation would be cut off, and in case of fire it would be absolutely necessary to flood the lands to put out the fire.

Other objections to the settlement of the Everglades are changing of the climate and the impossibility of roads for wheeled vehicles of transportation. The absence of timber for domestic purposes would be another drawback. In conclusion Mr. Maling states that he owns no lands in the section that would be affected by the drainage tax and is therefore unbiased in his opinions.

Gilchrist Entertains

Thursday morning, Feb. 22 twenty Arcadians went to Punta Gorda. At 3 p. m. they went to Gen. Gilchrist's offices and apartments and were shown his collection of curios etc., from almost everywhere on earth.

The crowd was then handed some cards and six tables at progressive whist played till five o'clock. No prize was given but Miss Mattie Roe had the biggest score. The Gen. then gave each lady a ticket with a number on it and as the numbers were called out each lady was given a souvenir. Then came the refreshments of ice cream, strawberries, cake, nuts, candy, champagne and wine.

In the evening at the Punta Gorda Hotel was given a concert which lasted from 8 to 9:30 p. m.

THEN THE BALL.

Orchestra: Mrs. Pace, piano, H. C. Goldstein, and his father, first and second violin, N. C. Hewitt, cornet. The dance lasted till 1:30. Every body came back voting this the most pleasant occasion of the year. Those who attended were Mesdames Geo. Parker, J. F. Richards, J. F. Pace, Minnie Smith, A. L. Gates, Effie Peters, Misses Eloise Dowd, Dauphine Simmons, Mary Giles and Mattie Roe. Messrs. E. N. Blood, F. B. Smith, E. T. Smith, Wm. Hooker, Horace Carlton, H. Bethel, J. F. Richards, J. F. Pace, J. J. Swearingen, F. J. Foulks, Pierce DePass.

Ladies' Friday Musicales.

The Ladies' Friday Musicales met with Mrs. C. H. Mitchell on last Friday afternoon at which time and place the following program was rendered:

"Goodnight," Nevins.....
Mrs. C. Chollar
"Garden of Sleep," Denara.....
Mrs. J. N. Hollingsworth
"Meditation," Morrison.....
Mrs. R. E. Whidden
"Giatanna,".....
Mrs. Mitchell
"Mazurka," Benjamin Godard.....
Mrs. T. B. King
"Thou Art Like Unto a Flower," Rubenstein.....
Mrs. A. E. Bennett
"Dance of the Stars," Godard.....
Mrs. R. E. Brown

The next meeting will be held with Mrs. T. B. King.

The Hamilton Troupe.

The Hamilton troupe played Shadows of Sin in the Arcadia Opera House on Monday night, and so well pleased a good audience that they came the next night to see the Society Girls, a laughable farce. The last night was somewhat of a failure owing to trouble between the manager of the troupe and the Arcadia help. Few of the audience knew that the play was considerably curtailed on that account.

OUR NEIGHBORS

INTERESTING NEWS OF NEARBY COMMUNITIES.

Bunker Talk.

We are having plenty of rain today.

Rev. MacIntosh preached Sunday at 11 a. m.

There was several of the young people of Owens here Sunday.

There was several of the young people from Gardner here Sunday.

Mrs. J. I. Anderson, of Nocatee, was visiting friends in Bunker last week.

Rev. T. W. White was here Saturday and Sunday to fill his regular appointment.

FLAP JACK

Bunker, Feb. 27 06.

Weather is very warm for winter.

Orange trees are looking fine and are full of bloom.

Rev. T. W. White filled his regular appointment at Oak Hill church Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday Rev. McIntosh preached a good sermon to a full house.

John Sharp, of Tiger Bay, is down to Bunker on business, but we are not able to say what kind of business.

We understand that George Brooker, of Pine Level has purchased the grove property of Wm. McGehee here at Bunker.

John F. Bates has just added 425 orange trees to his little grove which certainly makes his place look a great deal better.

Bunker is certainly going to be a big town after a while, new houses are being built all along, and I think when I see the young men driving down the streets on Sunday evenings with their best girl I think they will soon build a house too.

Hello Flap Jack I don't know who you are but you are a Flap Jack right if you would stay at home long enough to get fried.
2-28, 1906. DODGE.

Snap Shots From Lily.

A-light shower on Tuesday.

Both young and old orange trees are putting on a vigorous growth.

It seems that every one that can is trying to get up with his hunting before the first of March.

J. E. Raulerson made a flying trip over to Fruitville, Sarasota and elsewhere on Saturday afternoon returning on Tuesday. Mr. Raulerson returned badly used up from his trip.

We want everybody to sit up and take notice. Everything is all joy and happiness in the home of A. C. Albritton. It is a boy. He made his appearance more than a week ago. The mother is doing nicely. We want to assure the public that Mr. Albritton is again clothed and in his right mind.

It seems that as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry that every body will be busy here with their spring planting.

KODAK.

Lily, Fla. 2-28, 1906.

An Electric Railroad.

Our citizens have this week been pleased to confer with S. G. Bon Durant, of New York, represent-

ing eastern capitalists, who contemplate an electric line of railway between Tampa and the east coast. Our most prominent business men are very favorably disposed to the scheme, and have met informally to discuss it with Mr. Bon Durant. According to this gentleman, who by the way is a very pleasant and enterprising young man, electric railways will in time supersede the present system of railroads throughout the world.

The electric system has the very great advantage of being vastly cheaper than that now in use.

A line has been definitely decided upon by the company Mr. Bon Durant represents, between Tampa and the east coast, and he is now making a preliminary tour of inspection as to the most feasible route.

Mr. Bon Durant met a crowded court house of citizens in Bartow who offered a large sum of money and other valuable inducements as well as arguments why Bartow should be in the proposed line.

If Bartow is on the line Arcadia will not be and Arcadia understands too well the advantages of having direct communications with the Atlantic Coast to be backward in offering inducements and convincing arguments. As the center of the orange, phosphate and cattle industries of South Florida, there is no point in this section of the State that ships so largely or has more need of better transportation facilities, and we expect our citizens to come up with their most liberal propositions to induce this new line to come our way.

The W. C. T. U.

After a vacation of several months several ladies interested in the W. C. T. U., met in the Methodist church last Wednesday afternoon. The president of the local union not being present, Mrs. Child, the secretary, occupied her position until a new president was elected. It being understood that Mrs. Giles declined to serve in the capacity of president any further Mrs. R. E. Whidden was then elected for that position.

Mrs. Child remains as secretary and Mrs. C. Y. Crawford was elected as treasurer, Mrs. Whidden having resigned. For vice-presidents the presidents of the various church societies were appointed, they are Mrs. W. E. Daniel of the Baptist church, Mrs. Mamie Smith of the Methodist, and Mrs. McSwain, of the Presbyterian, and Mrs. Mitchell of the Episcopal church being the ladies named. It was decided to hold but one meeting monthly and that on the last Wednesday of each month, at 3 p. m. alternating the place of meeting among the different churches. The next meeting will be held at the Baptist church. Two new members Mrs. J. L. Jones and Mrs. Fred Langford joined. Mrs. Royal and daughter, Miss Susie, were white ribbon women visitors on this occasion.

Those present at this meeting were Mrs. W. E. Daniel, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. J. L. Jones, Mrs. Little, Mrs. Langford, Mrs. Royal and daughter, Mrs. Whidden, and Mrs. Child.

It was decided that each person present would make special endeavor to induce others to join and by interesting programs induce a large attendance.

RISE OF ARCADIA

NEW BUILDINGS STARTED THIS WEEK.

It takes a fire to make the carpenters and builders busy. Arcadia is doing something worth mentioning in the building line. During the last week the foundations have been laid on Oak street for four new, substantial fire proof business houses, and the school house, also. The Owen Parker Store building, F. C. Ralls contractor, will be of brick, pressed brick front, two stories, the lower floor for the use of the Parker General Merchandise Store and the upper floor for offices. This will be a large, handsome building with all the modern improvements.

The Houston building just east of the First National Bank will be a two story building of concrete, brown stone front, elevator in the rear. This will also be built after the best modern plans and will be occupied by furniture and hardware, in connection with the Arcadia Mercantile Company.

Mr. Espenlaub's new building will occupy the site of the old DeSoto Hotel, he and Mr. Heard having made an exchange of lots. The building will be concrete stone one story, suited to the needs of a first class, up-to-date city meat market.

The L. L. Morgan new building was described last week and the W. H. Seward addition to his present brick store has also been before mentioned. These two buildings had their foundations laid last week.

The new school house foundations were laid on Quality Hill, and the plan of the building made known. It will be a two story concrete stone structure, with four 30x40 rooms and big hall on the first floor. The second floor will have two recitation rooms and an auditorium.

Specifications for the city water works plant are now being published. Bids are to be advertised for. The date is set as March 15.

Officers to be Voted For.

As prescribed by the State Executive Committee, at its recent meeting in Jacksonville, nominations are to be made by the democrats of Florida for a long list of offices, at the primaries, the first to be held May 15.

In this county, the ballots will contain the names of candidates for the following offices.

Member of Congress.
Two Justices of the Supreme Court.
Two Members of the Railroad Commission.
State Attorney.
One member of the State House of Representatives.
Tax Assessor.
Tax Collector.
County Treasurer.
Five members of the Board of County Commissioners.
Three members of the Board of Public Instruction.
Justice of the Peace in each district.
Constable in each district.

No frost in South Florida this week. Only one frost this year and it a light one.